IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 27, lines 1-12, as follows:

Processor 116 may also transmit connection information and updated billing and subscriber information to modem 30 at computer 22 using link 86 and the associated XDSL modem in modem pool 74. This information may include the length of the current session, the current balance in the account of subscriber 12, as well as any other suitable information that relates to the account or activity of subscriber 12 with ~~communication server 54~~ communication server 58. Generally, processor 116 may communicate any suitable information stored at or made available to controller 80 to subscribers 12 using transceiver 108 or the associated modem in modem pool 74.

Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 33, line 13, through page 34, line 2, as follows:

FIGURE 8 is a flow chart of a method performed at controller 80 to couple data lines 54 to modems 160 in modem pool 74. The method begins at step 300 where processor 116 of controller 80 loads activity table 122 from database 120 which contains an entry for each valid subscriber 12 served by communication server 58. Using management interface 128, a telephone service provider may ensure that activity table 122 reflects valid subscribers 12 by monitoring past due accounts, the overuse of data service, successive invalid attempts to access ~~communication server 54~~ communication server 58, or other factors that may cause subscribers 12 to be invalid. Processor 116 selects the first inactive and non-dedicated data line 54 indicated by the designation "I" in status column 202 of activity table 122. Since switch 70 is configured to continuously couple dedicated subscribers 12 to their dedicated modems 160, processor 116 need not select an inactive data line 54 that is also dedicated, as indicated by the designation "I/D" in status column 202.

Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 39, line 26, though page 40, line 11, as follows:

Situations may also arise where subscribers insist on having a modem immediately available and do not want any risk of waiting. If a subscriber system 510 does not have this availability guarantee value, the subscriber system 510 may transmit a signal to communication server 502 requesting access to third modem pool 550. Communication server 502

may upgrade the specific subscriber system 510 requesting access to third modem pool 550 such that the availability guarantee value of that subscriber system 510 is altered either for a ~~for a~~ single user session or a predetermined time period. It should be noted that when subscriber systems 510 request access to lower subscription modem pools, the allocation of XDSL modems may have to be altered or otherwise managed to maintain appropriate levels of service.

Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 44, line 19, though page 45, line 3, as follows:

During the soft-termination state, at step 630, activity may be detected on the subscriber link. In one example, this activity encompasses a subscriber returning to his computer and attempting to transmit or receive data. Based on this activity, at step 632, the communication server couples the subscriber to an available modem from the modem pool. Note that the communication server may be unable to couple the subscriber to the initial modem because a second subscriber may have been granted service to that modem. Once a new connection has been established, the subscriber is removed from the soft-termination state in ~~step 638~~ step 634, and the time-out condition associated with the subscriber is canceled.